

Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission

Suicide Prevention Training

Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1424 modified the law enacted in 2014 (RCW 43.70.442) establishing suicide prevention training requirements for health care providers including licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and advanced registered nurse practitioners. The law requires a one-time training course (at least six hours in length) in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. The law exempts certified registered nurse anesthetists.

The law requires the Washington State Department of Health to adopt rules establishing the minimum standards for the training programs by June 30, 2016 and to approve training programs beginning January 1, 2017. Beginning July 1, 2017, health care providers must take a training course from the Department of Health's approved list. The course must include a portion devoted to working with veterans and assessment of issues related to imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors.

The Nursing Commission recently approved changes to the existing continuing competency rules (WAC 246-840-220) to address the new requirements. A summary includes the following key points:

- Nurses must complete a one-time training by the end of the first full continuing education competency cycle;
- Training will be accepted between June 12, 2014 and June 30, 2017, as long as it includes content about assessment, treatment, and management – training may be from a program on the current model list or from other training programs with appropriate content;
- The six-hour training may be done in one or more sessions;
- Training is required during the nurse's first full three-year continuing competency cycle; for example, a nurse is in the middle of the three-year cycle. The new cycle starts on the nurse's birthday in 2017. The requirement for suicide prevention training would be at the end of that three-year cycle on the nurse's birthday in 2020; and
- Beginning July 1, 2017, nurses must complete a suicide prevention training from the Department of Health's approved list of training programs.
- Nurses will not need to send documentation of training unless selected for our random audits.

References:

[HB 2315 Concerning Suicide Prevention](#)
[HB 1424 Concerning suicide Prevention](#)
[Suicide Prevention Training for Health Professionals Model List](#)

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Suicide Prevention Training Timelines

Requirements for Nurses

